

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant : Samuel M. Shaolian et al.  
App. No : 10/642,399  
Filed : August 15, 2003  
For : ARTICULATING SPINAL FIXATION  
ROD AND SYSTEM  
Examiner : Eduardo C. Robert  
Art Unit : 3732

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application is an Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (PTO/SB/08 equivalent) listing 3 references to be considered by the Examiner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits, and presumably no fee is required. If a first Office Action on the merits was mailed before the mailing date of this Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

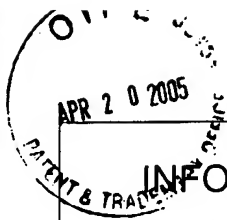
Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 4-18-05

By: 

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

	Application No.	10/642,399
	Filing Date	August 15, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Samuel M. Shaolian et al.
	Art Unit	3732
(Multiple sheets used when necessary)	Examiner	Eduardo C. Robert
SHEET 1 OF 1	Attorney Docket No.	VLINK.033A

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number - Kind Code (if known) Example: 1,234,567 B1	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	4,892,550	01/09/90	Huebsch	
	2	5,549,679	08/27/96	Kuslich	
	3	6,425,923	07/30/02	Stalcup et al.	

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\***Examiner:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

T<sup>1</sup> - Place a check mark in this area when an English language Translation is attached.